

Remarks

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on September 15, 2004. Claims 1-15 remain pending.

In section 1 of the Office Action, restriction was required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between one of the following groups:

- I. claims 1-15 drawn to a coupler; and
- II. claims 16-20 drawn to a locking element.

It is respectfully noted that claims 16-20 were canceled by preliminary amendment on the transmittal form included with the application as filed. Therefore, only claims 1-15 of Group I remain pending, and claims 1-15 are elected for examination purposes.

In section 4 of the Office Action, election under section 121 was required among the following species:

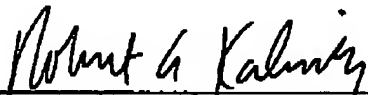
- species of Figures 1-6;
- species of Figures 7-12;
- species of Figures 1 and 13-23;
- species of Figures 24 and 25; and
- species of Figures 46 and 47.

Election of the species shown in Figures 46 and 47 is made. Claims 1-15 read on the elected species.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: October 15, 2004


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